* 271 *Q.*—

Sri T. ANANTHA PAI:—"I do not put the question, Sir."

Fair price shop for Coondapoor taluk.

* 272 *Q.*—Sri Y. MANJAYA SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the poor people of Gangolly and other places of Coondapoor taluk to increase the quantity of ration of rice issued in fair price shops; and

(*b*) if so, what action the Government have taken in the matter?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM:—"(*a*) No.

"(*b*) Does not arise."

Admission into Engineering Colleges.

* 272-A *Q.*—Sri S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have appointed any Committee for Engineering Colleges to select students for admission;

(*b*) if the answer to the above is in the affirmative, whether the Government have issued detailed instructions to the Committee to be followed in the method of selecting students;

(*c*) whether the Government have changed or modified the instructions in force last year; and

(*d*) if so, what are the reasons for the same?

The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO (on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Public Works):—"I am placing a statement[a] on the table of the House giving full details in answer to the question."

Sri S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM:—"So far as the students belonging to the backward communities are concerned, I understand that in the last year's instructions, the words 'not less than 25 per cent' were used. This year I find the words 'not less than' have been taken away. Is it with a view to restrict the number of students belonging to the backward communities so far as admissions are concerned?"

The Hon. Dr. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"In the instructions of last year, the words 'not less than 25 per cent' were vague and indefinite. The present instructions are clear and convey the intention with which that regulation was made. Anything not less than 25 may mean 50, 100, 150 or even 200."

Sri R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether over and above the 25 per cent of seats allotted to backward community candidates, students belonging to those communities can be selected on the basis of merit? If so, will the Hon. Minister give instructions to allow the students belonging to the backward communities and the Harijan community to compete first

[a] Printed as Appendix on page 592 infra.

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for the 60 per cent of the seats allowed for open competition and then to select candidates from these communities for filling up the 25 per cent and 15 per cent of the seats reserved for them?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"By the present arrangement members of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, after getting 25 per cent and 15 per cent of the seats respectively, are not precluded from competing for further seats on merit from the general pool of 60 per cent. In case there is a lesser number than 25 per cent from among the original list of names, the committee takes further names and brings it up to 25 per cent. But over and above the 25 per cent, if there are candidates, they are allowed to compete for seats on the basis of merit. There is no need for any apprehension in this matter."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM:—"Sir, my question is going to be straightforward (laughter) and I request the Hon. Minister to give me an answer in clear and unambiguous language. The selection for 60 per cent of the seats must first be made on merit and in that selection, members of the Backward Classes and Scheduled Castes must be allowed to take their chances. Later on, the selection of Backward Class and Scheduled Caste students should be made for the 25 per cent and 15 per cent of the seats allowed to them. May I know whether the selection is made in this order? I want a categorical answer from the Hon. Minister."

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"If I should give a categorical answer, I have to make a longer statement. But I may say the question has been gone into and there are alternative ways of carrying out the instructions given to the Committee. The Committee is given the discretion to choose the method. But in every one of these alternative methods that have been worked out, the fact is that over and above the 25 per cent and 15 per cent of the seats, members of the respective classes have got the opportunity to be selected on the basis of merit."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN:—"Sir, it has been stated that this year a maximum of 50 marks has been fixed for activities in sports, the National Cadet Corps, etc. Is it correct that last year it was 150?"

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO:—"There was no figure specified in the instructions of last year."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"From the answer given I find that there is a conflict between the view expressed by the Hon. the Chief Minister and that expressed by the Hon. the Education Minister, with regard to the selection of Backward Class and Scheduled Caste candidates over and above the 25 per cent and 15 per cent of the seats allowed to them. If the selection to the reserved seats is first made, then the students who have got good marks will be selected. Then, what is the use of allowing the remaining students who might not have got good marks, to compete for seats from the general pool?"

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THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" In the first place, there is no conflict at all between the assurance given by the Hon. the Chief Minister the other day on the floor of this House and the statement that I have made. As I have already stated, if necessary, the Committees will be contacted and the point will be clarified. But there is no need for further clarification from the viewpoint of the Government. The Government are certain that over and above the reservation of 25 per cent and 15 per cent of the seats, members belonging to the communities under reference have got the opportunity to get seats on the basis of merit from the general pool "

SRI A. APPU :—" May I know whether these instructions are applicable to the Engineering Colleges at Coimbatore, Karaikudi and Annamalainagar? If so, may I know whether these instructions have been communicated to these institutions also? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" These rules are applicable to Government Colleges. The aided colleges are given instructions to see that these regulations are followed."

11-20 a.m. SRI S. RAMASWAMI NAIDU :—" In view of the fact that the selection of 60 per cent of the candidates is made purely on merit, will the Hon Minister consider the justness of allowing all the candidates in the first instance to compete in the general pool on merit and then fill up the seats reserved for Backward Community candidates? "

THE HON. DR. M. V. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, it will be seen that the assurances now given by me and those given by the Hon. the Chief Minister previously in this matter are implemented and it will also be seen that there is no difficulty in the matter."

SRI S. CHELLA PANDIAN :—" From the answer I find that 50 marks will be allotted for sports, extra curricular activities, etc. Is it a fact that this discretion was unfettered last year? This year, the marks have been fixed as 50 and thereby the Committee's discretion has been restricted. Is it not a fact that more than 70 M.L.As. have represented to the Government in the form of a letter that these restrictions should be removed immediately and, if so, may I know whether the Government will take suitable action immediately? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The suggestion last made is that unfettered discretion should be given to the Committee to add or subtract any number of marks and dispose of the candidates. If there is no limit placed with reference to the discretion as to the extra-curricular activities, it really means that the Committee is asked to do whatever it likes. We have given a certain quantum for guidance, and, if the Committee finds any difficulty in the matter and also

with respect to many other points raised now as to the procedure to be adopted in order to give effect to the instructions given, it is necessary that we will have to discuss the whole thing with the Committee. I am taking up more time than I should during question-time, as I really desire to explain the matter. The Committee's work is private and we are not in it. We do not intervene and we do not know how it proceeds in carrying out the instructions. It is, therefore, difficult for us to answer in reply to questions now as to what procedure the Committee is following. This being the case, I want hon. Members to accept this. When the Committee has finished its work—it is three-quarter way or half-way, I do not know—we shall go, in consultation with it into the issues raised by the hon. Members."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" Sir, the information given in the printed answer and the replies given by the Hon. the Chief Minister and the Hon. the Education Minister to the various supplementary questions are not at all satisfactory. This question affects a large population of the State, viz., Harijans, Backward Communities and Non-Brahmans. In order to make our point clear and in order to express our feelings on this matter, I would like to impress on you, Sir, that we must have a half-hour debate on this subject."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are going to discuss the Appropriation bill to-morrow. The hon. Member may speak on this subject to-morrow, if he wants. So, I am not going to allow a half-hour debate to-day."

Travelling allowance drawn by the Hon. the Chief Minister for his tour in Coimbatore district.

* 272-B *Q.*—SRI T. NAGI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of travelling allowance paid to the Chief Minister for his recent tour in Coimbatore district; and

(*b*) the cost of police bandobust and the travelling allowance for the retinue of officers who attended on the Chief Minister?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Rs. 141-3-0.

" (*b*) The expenditure on police bandobust was Rs. 482–4–6. The expenditure for the Chief Minister's personal staff was Rs. 249–13–0."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know whether the police bandobust was extra police bandobust for the Chief Minister or was it only ordinary bandobust as is generally given to the other Ministers? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It was a bandobust for the Chief Minister."